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Dewan's reply.—The suggestion to exempt suits arising out of Settlement proceedings from the provisions of the Court-fees and Stamp Regulations is noted and will receive every consideration.

138. Abolition of Adiyara for Santis.

Mr. P. Raman Tampi (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that every *Santi* in a temple was required to deposit an *Adiyara* which he forfeited under all conditions, even if as the highest bidder he succeeded in getting the much coveted place. The monthly salary of a *Santi* was a pittance hardly equal to the amount he could obtain if he lent the sum he had paid as *Adiyara* on interest. The *Santi* accordingly made good the difference from the allowances for the daily and periodical offerings and other religious rites. He converted his duties as officiator in temples into a regular business concern. That was a debasing spectacle. Government would be neglecting their duty and disregarding their legal and moral obligations as trustee of Devaswom affairs, if they permitted the perpetuation of a practice on the vicious effects of which there could not be two opinions. He therefore requested that the practice of levying *Adiyara* from *Santis* might be abolished.

Mr. Chithrannal Tampuran (Member, Nominated) spoke in support of the request.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

139. Compulsory registration of Vital Statistics.

Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Aiyer (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Trivandrum) advocated the compulsory registration of Vital Statistics and explained that a correct collection of births and deaths in Towns was necessary for taking measures to improve the conditions of life, for rightly judging the effects of scarcity, commercial depression, epidemic disease, emigration and immigration upon the prosperity of the community and the influence of professions, trades and locality on its well-being, and for watching the effects of particular sanitary measures.

The same member also urged—

140. Compulsory Vaccination.

that vaccination should be made compulsory. He said that reliance upon sanitary precautions was ineffectual against small-pox and explained that of the three methods for its prevention, namely, isolation and disinfection, inoculation and vaccination, the last was the most efficacious.

Dewan's reply.—Will be noted.

141. Payment of duty on tobacco into bankshalls.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Merchants of Quilon) requested that the Superintendents of Tobacco bankshalls might be asked to receive the duty on tobacco from the wholesale merchants and remit the same into the Taluk Treasuries as in the case of Salt bank-

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shalls and Chowkeys. Under the new system of accounts, the merchants had to pay the duty into the Taluk Treasury and produce the receipt at the bankshall before the tobacco bales could be removed. This resulted in loss and inconvenience to the merchants.

Dewan's reply.—Certain financial reforms have been introduced in regard to the Tobacco revenue. Regard should be had for these before any change could be made. If, however, there is any special inconvenience to the public, it will be considered and the necessary changes effected.

142. Allotment for irrigation and drainage works in north and middle Travancore.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Nayar Samajam, Quilon) requested that a reasonable and sufficient amount of money might be allotted for irrigation and drainage works in north and middle Travancore and that a special Irrigation Engineer might be deputed to inspect the agricultural centres and do the needful. Agriculture was dependent for its success mainly upon the monsoons which were becoming more and more precarious every year. Failure of crops had become constant. Irrigation works included drainage works which were specially needed in north Travancore for the prevention of destructive floods. He quoted figures to show that the amount spent on original works in those parts was very small, averaging only Rs. 592 per annum. The many canals and water-ways were either left incomplete or had silted up and become useless for want of attention. There was much room for improvement and if Government did not bestir themselves much harm might result.

Dewan's reply.— Will be attended to.

The same member also brought forward the following representations :—

143. Malayalam to be made the language of the courts.

(1) That Malayalam, the language of the country, might be made the language of the Courts of law and judgments and proceedings might as far as possible be written in Malayalam: and

144. Disposal of Government contracts in parts.

(2) That, in order to enable the people of the country to take up works on contract, all Government contracts might be auctioned in parts and not disposed of in one lot as monopolies which are advantageous neither to the Government nor to the people.

He illustrated his request by taking the cases of timber and salt. He said that it was a matter of regret that all good timber was given to a foreign contractor who exported the whole to foreign parts and the local public had to be content with what had been rejected by the

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